DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 270 265 RC 015 771

TITLE	Charles Huntington, Ojibwe Sculptor. With Teacher's Guide. Native Americans of the Twentieth Century.
INSTITUTION	Minneapolis Public Schools, Minn.
PUB DATE	79
NOTE	27p.; For other titles in this series, see RC 015 765-774.
AVAILABLE FROM	Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis Public Schools - Planning, Development and Evaluation, 807 Northeast Broadway, Minneapolis, MN 55413-2398 (not sold separately; series consists of 10 booklets--1 set, $2.75, plus $5.00 billing charge unless prepaid).
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom Use - Guides (For Teachers) (052) -- Guides - Classroom Use - Materials (For Learner) (051)
EDRS PRICE	MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*American Indians; American Indian Studies; Art Activities; *Artists; Biographies; Career Awareness; Cultural Activities; Cultural Awareness; Cultural Education; Elementary Education; *Learning Activities; Resource Materials; Resource Units; *Role Models; *Sculpture
IDENTIFIERS	*Huntington (Charles); Minnesota; *Ojibwe (Tribe)

ABSTRACT

A biography for the elementary grades of Charles Huntington (Ojibwe), an American Indian sculptor, includes photographs of the artist and some of his work. A teacher's guide following the bibilography contains information on sculpture and the Ojibwe people, suggested activities for learning about sculpture and sculptors, learning objectives and directions for teachers, vocabulary list, resource list, and an evaluation checklist. (LFL)

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CHARLES HUNTINGTON

OJIBWE

SCULPTOR

RC 015771

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CHARLES HUNTINGTON
OJIBWE
SCULPTOR

A SCULPTOR

A sculptor makes interesting shapes for people to look at and enjoy. Charles Huntington is a sculptor. He makes interesting shapes by casting metal, by assembling found objects, and by welding metal. These shapes are called sculptures.

Photograph Courtesy of: The Minneapolis Star

CHARLES HUNTINGTON

Charles Huntington was born in Niagara, Wisconsin on May 29, 1925. Charles' mother is an Ojibwe Indian from the White Earth Indian Reservation in Minnesota. She and her husband, Charles' father, had been living in Wisconsin when Charles was born. Charles' father was working in a paper mill. While Charles was still a baby, his parents moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. When he was five years old, his parents moved to Minneapolis. He grew up in Minneapolis and attended Minneapolis Public Schools.

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Charles did not decide to become a sculptor until he was thirty-four years old. He had been in the Navy from 1942 to 1946. He was working as an auto mechanic before he decided to become a sculptor. To become a sculptor, Charles knew he needed to learn skills useful to sculptors. To learn these skills, Charles went back to school.

From 1959 to 1960, Charles attended the Minneapolis School of Art, presently named the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Although he was there for only one year, he learned some basic art skills that are useful to sculptors. He learned to sketch, to use various tools and materials, and to utilize colors. After his training, he got a job with Paul Granlund, a Minneapolis sculptor.

SCULPTURES MADE BY CASTING METAL

For three years, Charles worked as an assistant to Paul Granlund. Paul's sculptures were made by casting metal. From Paul, Charles learned to make these kinds of sculptures. The metal which Paul and Charles use is bronze. To make a sculpture by casting bronze takes many steps.

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Some of these steps are: making a sculpture out of clay, making a plaster mold from the clay sculpture, and pouring liquid bronze into the plaster mold.

SCULPTURES MADE BY ASSEMBLING FOUND OBJECTS

Photograph Courtesy of: The Minneapolis Star

Charles began creating his first sculptures while he was working for Paul Granlund. These sculptures were made by assembling found objects. Found objects can be any discarded or unused objects assembled to form a new, interesting shape. This new shape is called a junk sculpture by many people.

One of Charles' early jobs was to make a junk sculpture for a laundry. In this junk sculpture, Charles used an old-fashioned iron, a washboard, and a wooden ironing board for some of the found objects. The found objects in this junk sculpture are related by usage. Not all of Charles' junk sculptures have found objects which are related in this way. Other junk sculptures contain only found objects which are made of metal. An example is the "Boob Tube."

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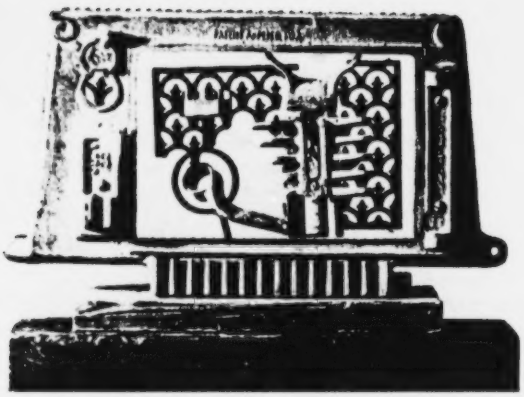


Photograph Courtesy of: Charles Huntington

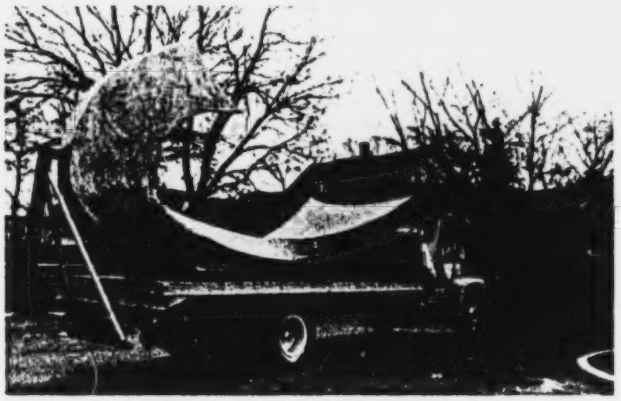
Junk sculpture entitled
"Boob Tube"

SCULPTURES MADE BY WELDING PIECES OF METAL

Charles continued to create and experiment with junk sculptures. He enjoyed working with metals, especially steel and iron. With steel and iron he began creating a new kind of sculpture. Charles made this new kind of sculpture by welding pieces of metal. These pieces of metal are carefully designed by Charles. They are designed to fit together and form an interesting shape. This shape is held together by welding these pieces of metal. Welding is joining or fusing the pieces of metal by using heat. Heat is used to melt the pieces of metal together. Heat can also be used to warm steel rods. Hot steel rods

Photograph Courtesy of: The Minneapolis Star

glue the pieces of metal together. Many of the sculptures Charles presently creates are made by welding pieces of metal.



Photograph Courtesy of: Charles Huntington

A new sculpture on the move

A PROFESSIONAL SCULPTOR

It took several years for Charles to become a professional sculptor. He went to school to learn some basic skills, he worked for another sculptor to learn some specific skills, then he practiced his skills to finally become a professional sculptor. Now Charles creates sculptures to sell to other people. Some sculptures are large and are usually displayed for the public to see. Many smaller sculptures are in private or public collections.

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

NATIVE AMERICANS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
CHARLES HUNTINGTON
OJIBWE
SCULPTOR

I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff of the Indian Elementary Curriculum Project wishes to thank the following for helping to make this biographical study unit possible:

Charles Huntington, for photographs and information about his life;
The Minneapolis Star, for photographs;
The Minneapolis College of Art and Design, for use of their library resources;
Patrick Des Jarlait, Illustrator;
Michael Blake, Illustrator.

II. CURRICULUM UNIT

Native Americans of the Twentieth Century - Charles Huntington

III. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CHARLES HUNTINGTON

A Sculptor

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Charles Huntington

Charles Huntington was born in Niagara, Wisconsin on May 29, 1925. Charles' mother is an Ojibwe Indian from the White Earth Indian Reservation in Minnesota. She and her husband, Charles' father, had been living in Wisconsin when Charles was born. Charles' father was working in a paper mill. While Charles was still a baby, his parents moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. When he was five years old, his parents

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moved to Minneapolis. He grew up in Minneapolis and attended Minneapolis Public Schools.

Charles did not decide to become a sculptor until he was thirty-four years old. He had been in the Navy from 1942 to 1946. He was working as an auto mechanic before he decided to become a sculptor. To become a sculptor, Charles knew he needed to learn skills useful to sculptors. To learn these skills, Charles went back to school.

From 1959 to 1960, Charles attended the Minneapolis School of Art, presently named the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Although he was there for only one year, he learned some basic art skills that are useful to sculptors. He learned to sketch, to use various tools and materials, and to utilize colors. After his training, he got a job with Paul Granlund, a Minneapolis sculptor.

Sculptures Made by Casting Metal

For three years, Charles worked as an assistant to Paul Granlund. Paul's sculptures were made by casting metal. From Paul, Charles learned to make these kinds of sculptures. The metal which Paul and Charles use is bronze. To make a sculpture by casting bronze takes many steps. Some of these steps are: making a sculpture out of clay, making a plaster mold from the clay sculpture, and pouring liquid bronze into the plaster mold.

Sculptures Made By Assembling Found Objects

Charles began creating his first sculptures while he was working for Paul Granlund. These sculptures were made by assembling found objects. Found objects can be any discarded or unused objects assembled to form a new, interesting shape. This new shape is called a junk sculpture by many people.

One of Charles' early jobs was to make a junk sculpture for a laundry. In this junk sculpture, Charles uses an old-fashioned iron, a washboard, and a wooden ironing board for some of the found objects. The found objects in this junk sculpture are related by usage. Not all of Charles' junk sculptures have found objects which are related in this way. Other junk sculptures contain only found objects which are made of metal. An example is the "Boob Tube."

Sculptures Made By Welding Pieces of Metal

Charles continued to create and experiment with junk sculptures. He enjoyed working with metals, especially steel and iron. With steel and iron he began creating a new kind of

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sculpture. Charles made this new kind of sculpture by welding pieces of metal. These pieces of metal are carefully designed by Charles. They are designed to fit together and form an interesting shape. This shape is held together by welding these pieces of metal. Welding is joining or fusing the pieces of metal by using heat. Heat is used to melt the pieces of metal together. Heat can also be used to warm steel rods. Hot steel rods glue the pieces of metal together. Many of the sculptures Charles presently creates are made by welding pieces of metal.

A Professional Sculptor

It took several years for Charles to become a professional sculptor. He went to school to learn some basic skills, he worked for another sculptor to learn some specific skills, then he practiced his skills to finally become a professional sculptor. Now Charles creates sculptures to sell to other people. Some sculptures are large and are usually displayed for the public to see. Many smaller sculptures are in private or public collections.

SCULPTURE

A sculpture is a three dimensional shape or figure. It can be made of any material that will hold a shape. Stone, clay, wood, and metal are the most common materials used to make sculpture.

Sculpture can be broadly described in two ways. It can be described as in the round, meaning the sculpture can be viewed from all sides, or in relief. A sculpture in relief has a shape or figure projected a little above or below a flat surface. Bas-relief, sunk relief, high relief and intaglio describe the various degrees of height or depth of a figure in relief.

A sculpture often represents a sculptor's ideas. These ideas may be the sculptor's concept of a person, an animal, a machine, or something in nature. A sculpture can also be an interesting shape or a series of pleasing shapes.

OJIBWE PEOPLE

Long ago the Ojibwe people's life centered around the four seasons in their woodland home. During the winter, small groups of people formed camps. They lived deep in the forest far away from the next camp because game was often scarce and a large hunting area was needed to provide necessities such as food and clothing.

Winter activities included: making and repairing hunting equipment and clothing; preparing cord, twine and fishing nets; and tanning hides. Winter was also a time when legends were told by elders.

In the spring, the Ojibwe would join other families at maple sugar camps, where preparations were made to gather maple sap. Maple sugar was an important food staple used in many kinds of cooking to season foods. Spring was also a good time for hunting and trapping, as the fur on animals was at its thickest.

As the sap began to run thin, families traveled by canoe to their summer homes. During the warm months, they lived along the shores of the lakes. The lakes provided cool breezes, fish, places to swim, and waterways for traveling.

In the late summer or early fall, Ojibwe people harvested wild rice, their most important food staple. The wild rice was harvested from shallow mud-bottomed lakes.

Today, Ojibwe people live in a variety of settings, urban as well as rural, on-reservation as well as off-reservation, woodland as well as plains environments; and can be found in a wide range of present day occupations. Ojibwe reservations are located in Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. There are also Ojibwe reservations in Canada which are referred to as reserves. For more information on the Ojibwe, see Section X, Resources.

IV. STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Activity One: Sculptor/Sculpture

Activity Two: Identification

Activity Three: Creating a Sculpture from Found Objects

V. OBJECTIVES

Given the background information:

A. The students will correctly identify Charles Huntington as a sculptor.

B. The students will correctly name and describe methods Charles Huntington uses to create sculptures.

C. The students will correctly identify a sculptor as a person who makes sculptures.

D. The students will differentiate between a professional and a non-professional sculptor.

E. The students will describe characteristics of the Ojibwe tribe.

VI. MATERIALS NEEDED

A. Charles Huntington biographical study folder

B. Activity One: Sculptor/Sculpture, duplicated for each student

C. Activity Two: Identification, duplicated for each student

VII. DIRECTIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR TEACHERS

A. Discuss the background information with the students, emphasizing the following about Charles Huntington: his profession; the methods he uses to create his art; the difference between a professional and a non-professional sculptor; and some of the sculptures he has created.

B. Have the students describe characteristics of the Ojibwe tribe.

C. Have the students complete Activity One: Sculptor/Sculpture, then Activity Two, Identification.

D. Have the students complete Activity Three, Creating a Sculpture from Found Objects.

VIII. CONCEPTS AND VOCABULARY

A. Assembling - putting together or fitting together.

B. Bronze - a brownish metal made of copper and tin, sometimes with other metals added, as lead and zinc.

C. Casting metal - a method used to create sculpture by pouring liquid metal into a mold.

D. Found objects - any discarded or unused objects used to create an interesting new shape.

E. Junk sculpture - a sculpture made by assembling found objects.

F. Professional - of, or having to do with a profession; making a business or trade out of something others do for pleasure, such as professional baseball.

G. Ojibwe - a North American tribe of Indian people also known as Chippewa and Anishinabe (Ah nish i nah ba).

H. Sculptor - a person who makes sculptures.

I. Sculpture - dimensional shapes or figures made by modeling clay, assembling objects, welding metal, carving wood or chiseling stone.

J. Welding - the joining of pieces of metal by heating the surfaces of their edges so that they melt and fuse together.

IX. ACTIVITY VARIATIONS

A. Take a field trip to a major gallery to view sculptures. Identify some special qualities of three dimensional art pieces.

B. Display the sculptures created by students then invite other people to view them.

C. Have the students complete the optional activity sheet, Fill in the Blanks.

X. RESOURCES

Accorsi, William. *Toy Sculpture*. New York: Reingold Book Corporation, 1968.

Calder's Circus (motion picture), Pathe Cinema Corporation. 19 Minutes, color.

Densmore, Frances. *Chippewa Customs*. Minneapolis: Ross and Haines, Inc., reprint, 1970.

Hale, Nathan Cabot. *Welded Sculpture*. New York: Watson-Guptill Publications, 1968.

Hastie, W. Reid and Schmidt, Christian. *Encounter with Art*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1969.

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Martinson, David. *A Long Time Ago Is Just Like Today.* Duluth, Minnesota: State of Minnesota, Duluth Indian Education Advisory Committee, 1976.

Moore, Lamont. *The Sculptured Image.* New York: Franklin Watts, Inc., 1967.

Morris, John D. *Creative Metal Sculpture.* New York: The Bruce Publishing Co., 1971.

Ojibwe Curriculum Committee, American Indian Studies Department, University of Minnesota, and the Educational Services Division, Minnesota Historical Society. *The Ojibwe - A History Resource Unit.* St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1973.

Paine, Roberta. *Looking at Sculpture.* New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, 1968.

Rieger, Shay. *The Bronze Zoo.* New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1970.

Roufs, Timothy G. *The Anishinabe of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.* Phoenix: Indian Tribal Series, The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, 1975.

See, Touch, Feel (motion picture), ACI Productions. 31 minutes, color.

Vizenor, Gerald R. *Anishinabe Adisokan.* Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 1970.

Warren, William W. *History of the Ojibway Nation.* Minneapolis: Ross and Haines, Inc., reprint, 1957.

XI. EVALUATION

A. Did the students identify Charles Huntington as a sculptor?

B. Did the students name and describe methods Charles Huntington used to create sculptures?

C. Did the students identify a sculptor as a person who makes sculptures?

D. Did the students differentiate between a professional and a non-professional sculptor?

E. Did the students describe characteristics of the Ojibwe tribe?

CHARLES HUNTINGTON

ACTIVITY ONE

SCULPTOR/SCULPTURE

sculptor sculptor _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A sculptor is a person.

A sculptor makes interesting shapes.

Charles Huntington is a sculptor.

sculpture sculpture _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A sculpture is a thing.

A sculpture is an interesting shape.

Charles Huntington makes sculptures.

Draw a face in the letter "o" to show that a Sculptor is a person.

sculptor

CHARLES HUNTINGTON

ACTIVITY TWO

IDENTIFICATION

Read the sentences in each box. Then circle the correct answer.

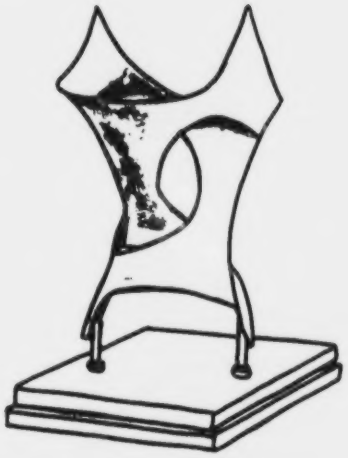
1.

This is not a sculptor.

This is Charles Huntington.

This is a sculpture.

2.

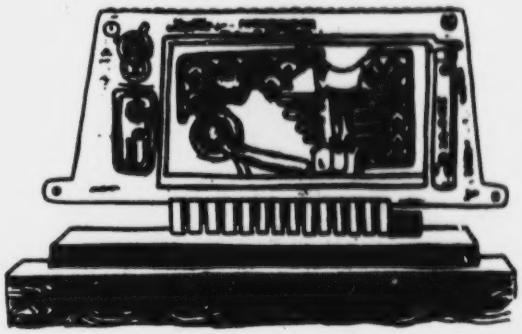


Here is a junk sculpture.

Here is Charles Huntington.

Here is a sculpture.

3.



This is not a sculpture.

This is a sculptor.

This is a junk sculpture.

4.

Charles makes sculptures.

This is not a sculptor.

Charles makes found objects.

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CHARLES HUNTINGTON

ACTIVITY TWO

IDENTIFICATION

ANSWERS

1. This is Charles Huntington.
2. Here is a sculpture.
3. This is a junk sculpture.
4. Charles makes sculptures.

CHARLES HUNTINGTON

ACTIVITY THREE

CREATING A SCULPTURE FROM FOUND OBJECTS

MATERIALS NEEDED

All Purpose Glue, enough for each student.

9" X 12" pieces of cardboard, one per student.

Scissors optional

Found objects - these can be any discarded or unused objects. For this activity the following are some suggested objects: old dishes, milk cartons, playing cards, spools, combs, small jars, lids, spoons, scraps of wood, small cans, broken records, string, scrap paper, scraps of cloth. Feel free to include any other interesting objects.

DIRECTIONS AND PROCEDURES

1. Collect all found objects into a large box.
2. Distribute the 9" X 12" piece of cardboard to the s students for use as the base of the sculpture.
3. Suggest that a sculpture can be made of one material (all paper, all wood, or all plastic) or can be made of related objects (objects found in the Kitchen, objects used in play, or objects from an office).
4. Let the students select a few objects to use for their sculptures.
5. Suggest that a sculpture can be a representation of a person, a machine, or something in nature. It can also be an accumulation of objects put together in an interesting manner.
6. The found objects are to be glued together in whatever interesting shape or figure the student desires.
7. Have scissors available to students, if they desire to cut a found object.

CHARLES HUNTINGTON

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY SHEET

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Read the sentence and fill in the blank with the best answer.

1. Charles Huntington is a _____.

   A. sculpture
   B. junk sculpture
   C. sculptor

2. A sculptor makes_____.

   A. found objects
   B. sculptures
   C. junk

3. Charles makes sculptures by casting metal, by assembling found objects, and by _____.

   A. attending school
   B. welding pieces of metal
   C. seeing art shows

4. Charles was born in _____.

   A. White Earth, Minnesota
   B. Minneapolis, Minnesota
   C. Niagara, Wisconsin

5. Charles decided to become a sculptor when he_____.

   A. was thirty four
   B. moved to Minneapolis
   C. worked as a teacher

6. From Paul Granlund, Charles learned to make sculptures by_____.

   A. casting metal
   B. finding objects
   C. welding metal

7. Junk sculptures are made by _____.

   A. assembling found objects
   B. pouring liquid bronze
   C. using plaster molds

8. Create is a word that means to_____.

A. watch
B. see
C. make

9. With steel and iron, Charles began to create a new kind of_____.

A. found object
B. sculpture
C. sculptor

10. Charles earns his living by_____.

A. finding found objects
B. selling sculptures
C. fixing cars

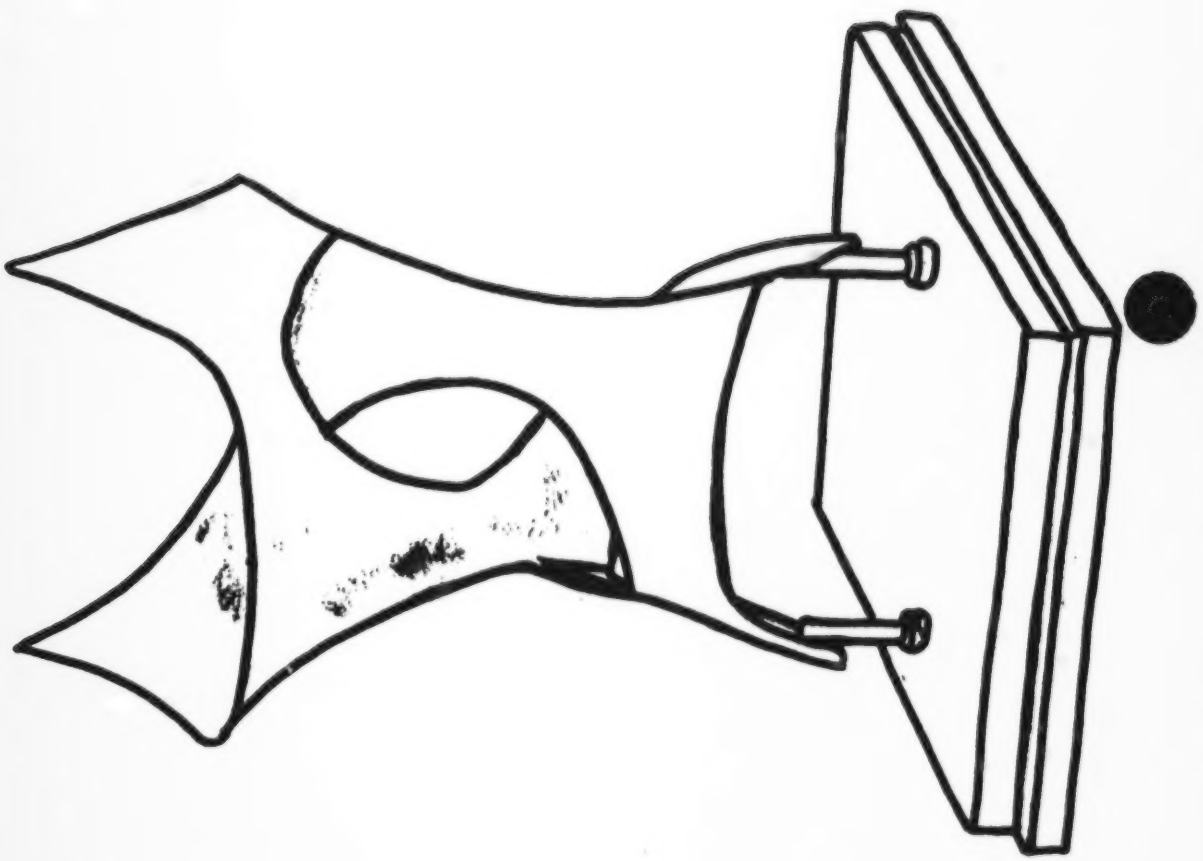
CHARLES HUNTINGTON

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY SHEET

FILL IN THE BLANKS

ANSWERS

1. Charles Huntington is a (C) sculptor
2. A sculptor makes (B) sculptures
3. Charles makes sculptures by casting metal, by assembling found objects, and by (B) welding pieces of metal
4. Charles was born in (C) Niagara, Wisconsin
5. Charles decided to become a sculptor when he (A) was thirty four
6. From Paul Granlund, Charles learned to make sculptures by (A) casting metal
7. Junk sculptures are made by (A) assembling found objects
8. Create is a word that means to (C) make
9. With steel and iron, Charles began to create a new kind of (B) sculpture
10. Charles earns his living by (B) selling sculptures



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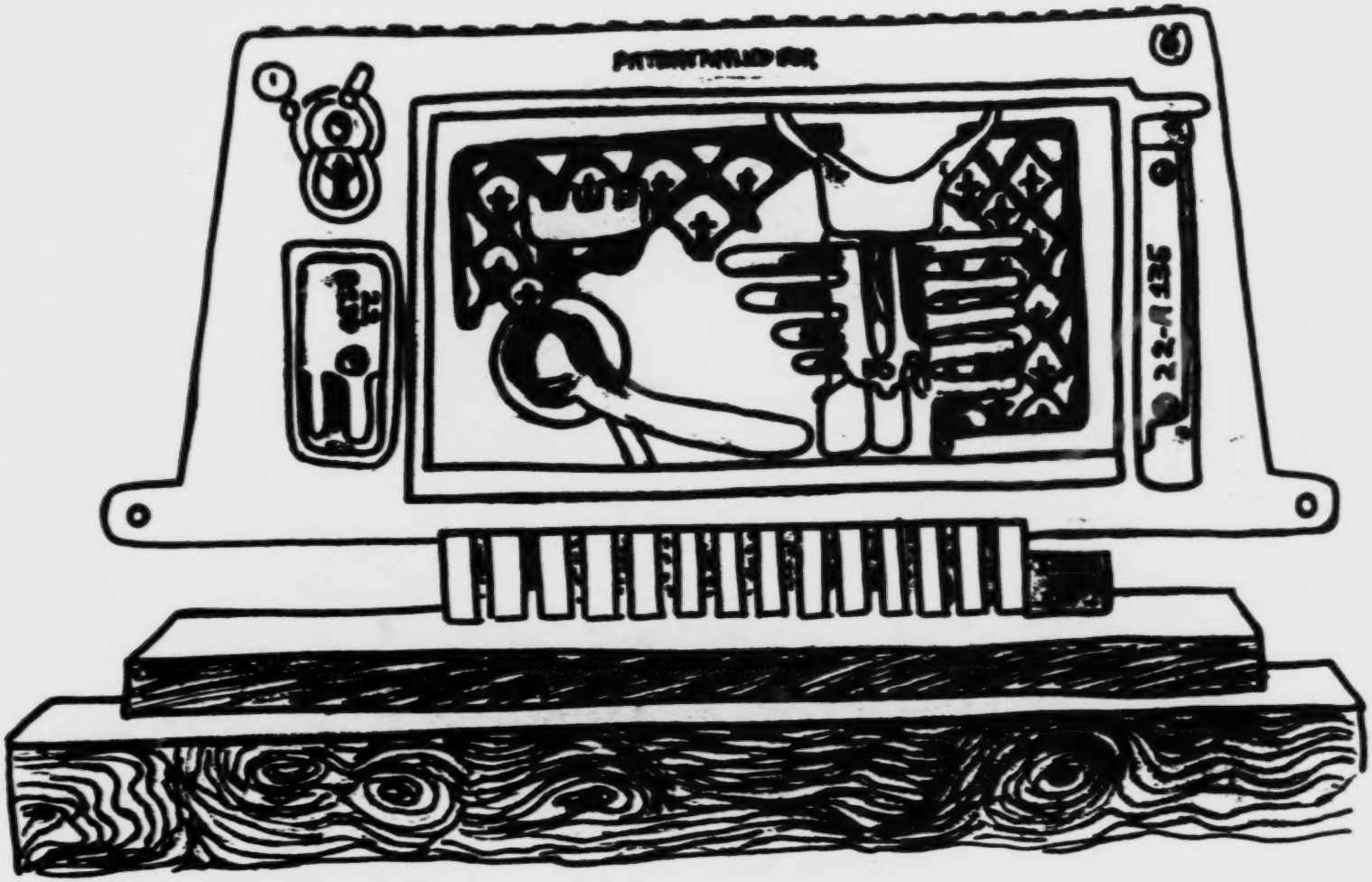

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